

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Necessary directions/clarifications were issued to RBI by the Government that no foreign investment of any kind is permitted in the print media sector.

(d) to (e) The Mid-day Multimedia Limited has informed the Government of their decision not to allocate any shares to FIIs.

Corruption in Doordarshan

†2420. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has totally failed to check corruption in Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of officers and employees found guilty of corruption and the number of those not punished during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to review the functioning of vigilance cell of Prasar Bharati; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financing of Film Projects by NFDC

2421. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) finance film projects of eminent film makers from time to time;

(b) if so, how many persons from North-East have been given this opportunity till now and of this, how many belong to Assam;

[†]Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there are any fresh proposals from North-East film makers pending with NFDC in this regard;

(d) if so, how many;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the processing of these applications takes a lot of time; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till date, the Corporation has considered seven applications from the North-East out of which four applications belong to Assam.

(c) and (d) Two fresh proposals from the North-East film makers are pending with NFDC.

(e) No, Sir. While there were some delays for a brief period in the past, this anomaly has been corrected with the constitution of a Regular Board in December 2000.

(f) Does not arise.

Scheme for Journalists

†2422. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Journalists who have lost their lives during news coverage till the year 2000;

(b) the details thereof State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to help the families of such Journalists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.